



Duncan Hotel; Heber City.

#### THE DUNCAN HOUSE.

The Duncan House was erected in the spring and summer of 1885, and was opened for business in August of the same year by John Duncan and his wife, by whom the hotel was managed. Mr. Duncan being postmaster at the time. The growth of this popular hotel has been commensurate with the growth of Heber. When it was opened it had a capacity of eight bedrooms, office, sitting room, dining room and kitchen. Quite a large hotel for Heber at that time. A few years later the increasing business made a sample room necessary and the rock building south of the hotel was utilized. Later still a large kitchen 15x36 feet was added, then a frame cottage with more rooms.

The hotel continued under the management of Mrs. Duncan until her death in 1900, when Mr. Duncan and his daughter, though laboring under the heavy loss of a loving wife and mother, decided to keep on in the hotel business. In regard to their management of the hotel the Biographical record of Utah says: "In 1885 he, (Mr. Duncan, built his present home which was opened as a hotel and has since been conducted by his daughters who have made a most enviable reputation in this respect, the hotel being the best in this part of the state and a very popular resort with the traveling public everything being of the best and the place being kept in spotless order."

December 1, 1904, E. H. Rhead, Jr., and wife, formerly Miss Gertrude Duncan, leased the hotel, renting from Mr. Duncan until April 1st, of the present year. During the summer and

fall of 1905, it was very evident that hotel accommodation was not equal to the demand as the opening of Uintah Indian reservation had increased travel, and naturally, hotel trade. Mr. and Mrs. Rhead made arrangements for purchasing the hotel and also for the erection of an addition. Alterations on the old building necessary for the addition began April 4th and by June 15th it was finished, furnished and ready for occupancy. The new building consists of seven bed-rooms, office, two large well lighted sample rooms, store-rooms and linen closet. Alterations in the old part have been made and a first-class job of plumbing gives hot and cold water in several parts of the house with bath room and other necessary conveniences.

The hotel proper is all used for the accommodation of guests, the cottage affording pleasant rooms for the employes. A glance at the illustration will show that there is little resemblance between the Duncan House of a year ago and that of today. It is well arranged, well furnished and comfortable, in short a first-class, up-to-date little hotel and Heber has cause to be proud of it as few small towns can boast of as good a one.

#### JOHN DUNCAN.

A history of Heber City would be incomplete without a mention of John Duncan. He moved to this place from American Fork in 1881, and purchased the city lot where the Duncan house now stands. The purchase price was \$400, which appeared to be a good stiff price at that time, but Mr. Duncan considers that was the best investment he has ever made. He has disposed of a portion of the lot, but estimates the value of the bal-

ance at \$8,000 without the improvements. While this may be a little high it shows how rapidly real estate in Heber is advancing.

Mr. Duncan served us as post master for about twelve years, taking the office in 1882. During this time the office was greatly improved and enlarged and he gave general satisfaction. He also served as justice of the peace and notary public many years.

Mr. Duncan is now in his 79th year, but hale and hearty, although the misfortunes, troubles and sorrow he has endured and hardships, privations and trials he has passed through have been more, it would seem, than an ordinary mortal could stand.

His wife died in March, 1900, and since that time he and his daughters have run the hotel until recently when he disposed of it to his son-in-law, E. H. Rhead.

Waye 21 Dec 1906

